



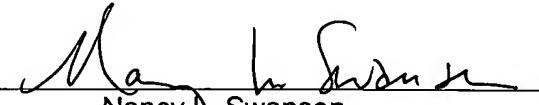
JEW

PATENT  
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/643,853  
Attorney Docket No. PP016073.0021

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

February 15, 2006

Date

  
Nancy L. Swanson

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : CHIEN et al.  
Application No. : 10/643,853  
Filed : August 19, 2003  
Art Unit: : 1645  
For : HCV ANTIGEN/ANTIBODY COMBINATION ASSAY

**STATUS INQUIRY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully inquire as to the status of this application since the Notice of Publication of Application, dated May 20, 2004, was received, no further communication has been received from the USPTO indicating action in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/15/06

By:



Marcella Lillis  
Reg. No. 36,583

CHIRON CORPORATION  
Intellectual Property – R440  
P.O. Box 8097  
Emeryville, CA 94662-8097